

<b>Report title</b>	Virtual School Head Annual Report 2023	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Chris Burden Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Alison Hinds, Director of Children's Services	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children and Young People in Care	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Darren Martindale	Virtual School Head
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<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Children and Young People in Care Management Team	25 October 2023
	Children in Care Council	8 November 2023
	Children and Education Leadership Team	2 November 2023

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Receive the Virtual School Head Annual Report 2023

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the educational outcomes of Wolverhampton's children and young people in care and care leavers from September 2022-July 2023, and how these have been supported by the Council, schools and other key partners. It also highlights notable successes as well as future priorities and areas for development.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Virtual School Head (VSH) for children and young people in care is responsible for ensuring that the local authority effectively discharges its statutory duty, under 22(3A) of the Children Act 1989, to promote the education of children in the care of the local authority (DfE 2014). Due to a range of barriers, the educational outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers are statistically far poorer than those of their peers. Local authorities seek to narrow this gap through the model of the 'virtual school', with the VSH as the head teacher of that school, working closely in partnership with education settings, social care and other partners and stakeholders.
- 2.2 The report captures key educational outcomes for children and young people in care, and the work that has been done to support these outcomes in line with the above statutory duty. It also outlines the council's response to the wider duties of the VSH, including children previously in care, other children with a social worker and the education, employment and training (EET) of care leavers.

## **3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.**

- 3.1 The report is included as an appendix.

## **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Any costs associated with the development of the plan or future plans that are identified as a result of this report should be contained within the overall budget for 2023-24 of £32.2 million within Children and Young People in Care service.

[JG/10112023/S]

## **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.  
[TC/10112023/A]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 An equalities analysis will be undertaken if required, in partnership with the Equalities and Diversities Team. As the work that underpins this strategy is to overcome any inequality, the analysis is aspirational and will need to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the work undertaken.

## **7.0 All other Implications**

7.1 There are no other implications.

## **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

8.1 There are no background papers.

## **9.0 Appendices**

9.1 There are no background papers.

9.2 Appendix 1: Virtual School Head Annual Report 2023 – Full Report.